For the Liberty of unlicenc'd Printing.

THey who to States and Governours of the Commonwealth direct their Speech, High Court of Parlament, or wanting ſuch acceſſe in a private condition, write that which they foreſee may advance the publick good; I ſuppoſe them as at the beginning of no meane endeavour, not a little alter'd and mov'd inwardly in their mindes: Some with doubt of what will be the ſucceſſe, others with feare of what will be the cenſure; ſome with hope, others with confidence of what they have to ſpeake. And me perhaps each of theſe diſpoſitions, as the ſubject was whereon I enter'd, may have at other times variouſly affected; and likely might in theſe formoſt expreſſions now alſo diſcloſe which of them ſway'd moſt, but that the very attempt of this addreſſe thus made, and the thought of whom it hath recourſe to, hath got the power within me to a paſſion, farre more welcome then incidentall to a Preface. Which though I ſtay not to confeſſe ere any aske, I ſhall be blameleſſe, if it be no other, then the joy and gratulation which it brings to all who wiſh and promote their Countries liberty; whereof this whole Diſcourſe propos'd will be a certaine teſtimony, if not a Trophey. For this is not the liberty which wee can hope, that no grievance ever ſhould ariſe in the Commonwealth, that let no man in this World expect; but when complaints are freely heard, deeply conſider'd, and ſpeedily reform'd, then is the utmoſt bound of civill liberty attain'd, that wiſe men looke for. To which if I now manifeſt by the very ſound of this which I ſhall utter, that wee are already in good part arriv'd, and yet from ſuch a ſteepe diſadvantage of tyranny and ſuperſtition grounded into our principles as was beyond the manhood of a *Roman* recovery, it will bee attributed firſt, as is moſt due, to the ſtrong aſſiſtance of God our deliverer, next to your faithfull guidance and undaunted Wiſdome, Lords and Commons of *England*. Neither is it in Gods eſteeme the diminution of his glory, when honourable things are ſpoken of good men and worthy Magiſtrates; which if I now firſt ſhould begin to